

Winter, Tom (NBCUniversal)

From: Lanny J Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 12:19
To: Winter, Tom (NBCUniversal)
Cc: Lanny J Davis
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Statement by Lanny J. Davis, U.S. co-counsel to Dmitry Firtash, in response to inquiry from NBC News

Hi Tom.

See below. As discussed.

Please let me know ASAP if you are planning to go forward with the story. If you are then please confirm you will use the entire statement or, if not the entire statement, please give me an option of what parts you are using so we can discuss.

For the record we would appreciate if you don't use the entire statement that you link to the entire statement when posted on the website.

Please confirm receipt of this email and the full statement.

And please call me to discuss any expected outcome to the publication of a story.

Thanks.

Lanny

See below.

Statement by Lanny J. Davis, U.S. co-counsel to Dmitry Firtash, in response to inquiry from NBC News

"Each of the statements quoted by the NBC reporter, purportedly taken from a letter written by Senator Roger Wicker (R.-Miss.) apparently written over a year ago, is categorically and unequivocally false.

Every single one is a lie. There are no facts to support them. None.

Moreover, the statements about Mr. Firtash used in Senator Wicker's letter are false, disparaging, and

defamatory on their face. Any news organization that considers republishing these statements, much less one as reputable as NBC News, should know that my co-counsel for Mr. Firtash, Dan Webb, Chairman of Winston & Strawn LLP and the former United States Attorney in Chicago, is already in the process of preparing a defamation lawsuit. Mr. Webb is one of the nation's leading defamation trial lawyers and has a record of success holding media organizations accountable for knowingly or recklessly publishing defamatory statements.

Lest there be any doubt: A US news organization is liable for willful falsity and reckless disregard of the truth constitution defamation even if it republishes a letter from a US Senator containing such per se defamations. This is especially so when the news organization is on notice that the republished statements are lies and defamatory.

It appears that Senator Wicker wrote his letter based upon misinformation, possibly using language similar to that used by a biased top manager of a large Ukrainian state-owned company who might be interested in building a vertically integrated monopoly in gas business. This individual, possibly associated with other political operatives and defeated politicians in the Ukraine with similar biases, might have previously used US media and political figures to spread their lies about Mr. Firtash while trying to remain anonymous.

No legitimate US news organization should fall for such deception.

One would hope that neither would a U.S. Senator. We trust and hope the Senator too is concerned about facts and the truth and will take the time to check them out and then correct the record.

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